

United States Patent and Trademark Office

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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

12/17/2003

NOVO NORDISK OF NORTH AMERICA INC **405 LEXINGTON AVENUE SUITE 6400** NEW YORK, NY 101746401

EXAMINER SIEW, JEFFREY

> PAPER NUMBER ART UNIT

1637

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/398 365	09/17/1999	SVEND HAVELUND	3985.240-US	9987

TITLE OF INVENTION: ACYLATED INSULIN

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE PUBLICATION FEE		TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$0	\$1330	03/17/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.
- Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

(703) 746-4000 or <u>Fax</u>

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

7590

12/17/2003

NOVO NORDISK OF NORTH AMERICA INC 405 LEXINGTON **AVENUE SUITE 6400** NEW YORK, NY 101746401

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name (Signature (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/398.365	09/17/1999	SVEND HAVELUND	3985.240-US	9987

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APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE		PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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EXAMINER		ART UNIT		CLASS-SUBCLASS]	
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3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); 4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed: 4b. Payment of Fee(s): ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed. ☐ Issue Fee Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. Publication Fee ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _______(enclose an extra copy of this form). ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies Deposit Account Number

Director for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE; The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or oth interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.usplo.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/398,365	09/17/1999	SVEND HAVELUND	3985.240-US	9987
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	K OF NORTH AME	RICA INC	SIEW, JI	EFFREY
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 6400			1637	
NEW YORK, NY 101746401		DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003		

Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

	Application	No.	Applicant(s)				
•			' ' ' ' '				
Notice of Allowability	09/398,365 Examiner		HAVELUND ET AL.				
•	LAMINIO		Artonic				
	Jeffrey Siew	!	1637				
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperall claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS or other appro I GHTS. This a	 CLOSED in this appriate communication pplication is subject to 	plication. If not include will be mailed in due	ed course. THIS			
 This communication is responsive to 4/21/05. The allowed claim(s) is/are 89-131 and 146-162. 							
3. The drawings filed on are accepted by the Examiner.							
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).							
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:	•	, (.,, (,,					
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have	been received	l.		; *			
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have	been received	l in Application No	·				
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents of the priority documents of the priority documents. (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	cuments have I	been received in this I	national stage applicat	tion from the			
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Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of	this communic	ation to file a reply co . THIS THREE-MON	omplying with the requ NTH PERIOD IS NOT	irements noted EXTENDABLE.			
7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submINFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reas	nitted. Note the son(s) why the	attached EXAMINER path or declaration is	R'S AMENDMENT or N deficient.	IOTICE OF			
 8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted. (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No 							
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing of							
(c) including changes required by the attached Examiner	's Amendment	/ Comment or in the (Office action of Paper	No			
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet.	.84(c)) should b	e written on the drawir	ngs in the front (not the	back) of			
9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR T	sit of BIOLOG HE DEPOSIT	SICAL MATERIAL n OF BIOLOGICAL MA	must be submitted. N TERIAL.	Note the			
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1 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 3 Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5 Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No 7 Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material		4☐ Interview Summa 6☐ Examiner's Ame	al Patent Application (I ary (PTO-413), Paper Indment/Comment Indement of Reasons for A	No. <u>///2/</u> 53			
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Art Unit: 1637

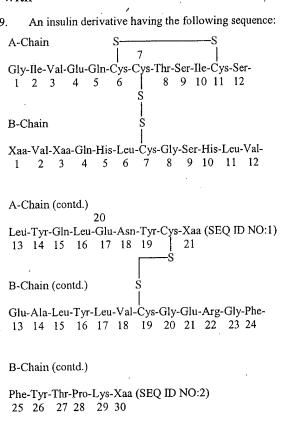
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard Bork on November 12, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

A) Replace claim 89 with --



wherein

- (a) Xaa at positions A21 and B3 are, independently, any amino acid residue which can be coded for by the genetic code except Lys, Arg and Cys;
 - (b) Xaa at position B1 is Phe or is deleted;
 - (c) Xaa at position B30 is deleted; and
- (d) the ϵ -amino group of Lys^{B29} is substituted with a lipophilic substituent having at least 6 carbon atoms. -

Application/Control Number: 09/398,365 Page 3

Art Unit: 1637

B) Replace claim 150 with -- The pharmaceutical composition of claim 147, said composition further comprising an insulin or an insulin analogue which has a rapid onset of action.--

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Concerning claims 89-131,146-162, there is no prior art that teach or suggest the insulin derivative of claim 89. The closest prior art is Linday et al (US3,950,517) who teach reducing antigencity of porcine and bovine insulin but do not teach or suggest the Lys B29 substituted with a liopphilic substituent with at least 6 carbon atoms.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Siew whose telephone number is (703) 305-3886 and

Art Unit: 1637

whose e-mail address is Jeffrey. Siew@uspto.gov. However, the office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner is on flex-time schedule and can best be reached on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (703)-308-1119.

Any inquiry of a general nature, matching or filed papers or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the <u>Tracey Johnson</u> for Art Unit 1637 whose telephone number is (703)-305-2982.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Center numbers for Group 1600 are Voice (703) 308-3290 and Before Final FAX (703) 872-9306 or After Final FAX (703) 30872-9307.

November 12, 2003

(Rev. 2-59)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		40-US	Serial No. 09/3	98,365		
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	(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date September	r 17, 1999	Group 1646			
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d	1 Lapidot et al	Journal of Lipid Re	search, Vol. 8, page	es 142-145, (1967);			
<i>(</i>)	2 Asada et al., Pl	narmaceutical Rese	earch, Vol. 11, No 8	. pages 1115	-1120 (1994);			
	3 Besselink et al.	, Applied Biochen	nistry and Biotechno	ology, Vol. 4	3, pages 227-2	46, (1993);	
			Res 4, pages 109-1					
			Res. 4, pages 117-					
			vol. 76, pages 573-					
			's Z. Physiol. Chem		nages 500_616	(1972)		
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	- Onan Oran, Di		pages 419-425, (19					
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		J. Org Chem., Vol. 3	<u> </u>				
	1 1	Endocrinology, Vol.	90, pages 597-604,	(1972);			
		, Can. J. Chem. Vol	46, pages 1047-105	1, (1968);			
	18 Lindsay et al	Lindsay et al., Eur. J. Biochem, Vol. 15, pages 547-554, (1970);					
	(9 Lindsay et al	Lindsay et al., Biochem J. Vol. 121, pages 737-745, (1972);					
	20 Massey et al.	, Eur. J. Biochem, V	ol. 31, pages 470-47	73, (1972);			
86	21 May et al., J.	Biol. Chem., Vol. 2	53, pages 686-690;				
	22 Saunders et a	al., FEBS Letters, Vo	ol. 26, pages 286-28	8, (1972);			
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ORA 110-149	7	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		Atty. Docket No. 3985.2	240-US	Serial Na. 09/3	98,365	
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	25	Schuttler, Hop	ope Seyler's Z. Phys	siol. Chem., Vol. 36	0, pages 172	1-1725, (1979));	
85	26	Sheffer et al.,	Can. J. Biochem, V	'ol 57, pages 489-49	96, (1979);			
08	27	Tanford, J. As	m. Chem. Soc., Vol	ol 72, pages 441-451, (1950);				
85	2.8	Tanford, Adv	. Protein Chem., Vo	ol. 17, pages 142-14	4, (1962).			
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S. J. J. 18 1.

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Interview Summary	09/398,365	HAVELUND ET AL.
merview Gummary	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeffrey Siew	1637
All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO	personnel):	
(1) <u>Jeffrey Siew</u> .	(3)	
(2) <u>Richard Bork</u> .	(4)	
Date of Interview: <u>12 November 2003</u> .		
Type: a)⊠ Telephonic b)□ Video Conference c)□ Personal [copy given to: 1)□ applicant 2	e) applicant's representativ	e]
Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes If Yes, brief description:	e) No.	
Claim(s) discussed: <u>150</u> .≁%		
Identification of prior art discussed:		İ
Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g)□ was not reached. h)□ t	N/A.
Substance of Interview including description of the general reached, or any other comments: <u>due to scanning error, the rewritten in the examiner's amendment</u> .		
(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amend allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no callowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached	opy of the amendments that v	
THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE A INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR FORM, WICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse signal.	last Office action has already THE MAILING DATE OF THI F THE SUBSTANCE OF THE	/ been filed, APPLICANT IS IS INTERVIEW SUMMARY
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Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.	Examiner's sign	nature, if required

NOTICE OF OFFICE PLAN TO CEASE SUPPLYING COPIES OF CITED U.S. PATENT REFERENCES WITH OFFICE ACTIONS, AND PILOT TO EVALUATE THE ALTERNATIVE OF PROVIDING ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO SUCH U.S. PATENT REFERENCES

Summary

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO) plans in the near future to: (1) cease mailing copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications (US patent references) with Office actions except for citations made during the international stage of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and those made during reexamination proceedings; and (2) provide electronic access to, with convenient downloading capability of, the US patent references cited in an Office action via the Office's private Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system which has a new feature called "E-Patent Reference." Before ceasing to provide copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the Office shall test the feasibility of the E-Patent Reference feature by conducting a two-month pilot project starting with Office actions mailed after December 1, 2003. The Office shall evaluate the pilot project and publish the results in a notice which will be posted on the Office's web site (www.USPTO.gov) and in the Patent Official Gazette (O.G.). In order to use the new E-Patent Reference feature during the pilot period, or when the Office ceases to send copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the applicant must: (1) obtain a digital certificate from the Office; (2) obtain a customer number from the Office, and (3) properly associate applications with the customer number. The pilot project does not involve or affect the current Office practice of supplying paper copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature with Office actions. Paper copies of references will continue to be provided by the USPTO for searches and written opinions prepared by the USPTO for international applications during the international stage and for reexamination proceedings.

Description of Pilot Project to Provide Electronic Access to Cited U.S. Patent References

On December 1, 2003, the Office will make available a new feature, E-Patent Reference, in the Office's private PAIR system, to allow more convenient downloading of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications. The new feature will allow an authorized user of private PAIR to download some or all of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications cited by an examiner on form PTO-892 in Office actions, as well as U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications submitted by applicants on form PTO/SB08 (1449) as part of an IDS. The retrieval of some or all of the documents may be performed in one downloading step with the documents encoded as Adobe Portable Document format (.pdf) files, which is an improvement over the current page-by-page retrieval capability from other USPTO systems.

Steps to Use the New E-Patent Reference Feature During the Pilot Project and Thereafter

Access to private PAIR is required to utilize E-Patent Reference. If you don't already have access to private PAIR, the Office urges practitioners, and applicants not represented by a practitioner, to take advantage of the transition period to obtain a no-cost USPTO Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital certificate, obtain a USPTO customer number, associate all of their pending and new application filings with their customer number, install no-cost software (supplied by the Office) required to access private PAIR and E-Patent Reference feature, and make appropriate arrangements for Internet access. The full instructions for obtaining a PKI digital certificate are available at the Office's Electronic Business Center (EBC) web page at: http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/downloads.html. Note that a notarized signature will be required to obtain a digital certificate.

To get a Customer Number, download and complete the Customer Number Request form, PTO-SB125, at: http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0125.pdf. The completed form can then be transmitted by facsimile to the Electronic Business Center at (703) 308-2840, or mailed to the address on the form. If you are a registered attorney or patent agent, then your registration number must be associated with your customer number. This is accomplished by adding your registration number to the Customer Number Request form. A description of associating a customer number with an application is described at the EBC web page at: http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/registration_pair.html.

The E-Patent Reference feature will be accessed using a new button on the private PAIR screen. Ordinarily all of the cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references will be available over the Internet using the Office's new E-Patent Reference feature. The size of the references to be downloaded will be displayed by E-Patent Reference so the download time can be estimated. Applicants and registered practitioners can select to download all of the references or any combination of cited references. Selected references will be downloaded as complete documents as Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) files. For a limited period of time, the USPTO will include a copy of this notice with Office actions to encourage applicants to use this new feature and, if needed, to take the steps outlined above in order to be able to utilize this new feature during the pilot and thereafter.

During the two-month pilot, the Office will evaluate the stability and capacity of the E-Patent Reference feature to reliably provide electronic access to cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references. While copies of U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references cited by examiners will continue to be mailed with Office actions during the pilot project, applicants are encouraged to use the private PAIR and the E-Patent Reference feature to electronically access and download cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references so the Office will be able to objectively evaluate its performance. The public is encouraged to submit comments to the Office on the usability and performance of the E-Patent Reference feature during the pilot. Further, during the pilot period registered practitioners, and applicants not represented by a practitioner, are encouraged to experiment with the feature, develop a proficiency in using the feature, and establish new internal processes for using the new access to the cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications to prepare for the anticipated cessation of the current Office practice of supplying copies of such cited

references. The Office plans to continue to provide access to the E-Patent Reference feature during its evaluation of the pilot.

Comments

Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature should be in writing and directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by electronic mail at eReference@uspto.gov or by facsimile to (703) 308-2840. Comments will be posted and made available for public inspection. To ensure that comments are considered in the evaluation of the pilot project, comments should be submitted in writing by January 15, 2004.

Comments with respect to specific applications should be sent to the Technology Centers' customer service centers. Comments concerning digital certificates, customer numbers, and associating customer numbers with applications should be sent to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

Implementation after Pilot

After the pilot, its evaluation, and publication of a subsequent notice as indicated above, the Office expects to implement its plan to cease mailing paper copies of U.S. patent references cited during examination of non provisional applications on or after February 2, 2004; although copies of cited foreign patent documents, as well as non-patent literature, will still be mailed to the applicant until such time as substantially all applications have been scanned into IFW.

For Further Information Contact

Technical information on the operation of the IFW system can be found on the USPTO website at http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/index.html. Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature and questions concerning the operation of the PAIR system should be directed to the EBC at the USPTO at (866) 217-9197. The EBC may also be contacted by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

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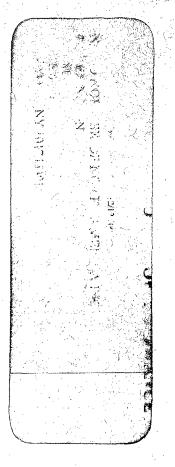
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